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U. S. Intelligence Agency Has Grown Up

WASHINGTON —(NEA)— Central Intelligence Agency is 10 years old this fall. The past year has been the busiest of its short career, due to the crises in Poland, Hungary and the Middle East.

Some harsh things have been said about CIA in this period. There have been congressional criticisms on estimates of Soviet bomber strength. President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and their top aides have been reported without advance reports on the British, French and Israeli plan to attack Egypt.

CIA Director Allen W. Dulles is in the position of not being able to answer attacks on intelligence failures.

But the observation can be made that even when intelligence estimates are available, the information in them may not be passed on or impressed on officials most vitally concerned.

THIS HAS BEEN the great failing of U. S. intelligence work all along. Accurate intelligence estimates were made before the Japs struck Pearl Harbor. The information just wasn't properly evaluated and passed on to the right people.

Similarly, U. S. intelligence fell down when the Chinese Communists struck south across the Yalu River in 1950. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who took over as fourth head of CIA in October of that year, ordered a complete overhaul of the agency.

He was tough and ruthless about it. He cleaned out many of the extra hands hired in a hurry at the start of the war.

Then General Smith asked Allen Dulles, who had headed a three-man commission to study reorganization of CIA, to come in for a few weeks and put his recommendations into effect.

DULLES HAS been at CIA ever since. He became General Smith's deputy, then his successor in 1953.

In the past four years, CIA has changed quite a lot. Its budget, the number of its employes and their operations still remain secret.

But it has built up a career service of intelligence experts — something the United States has never had before. Today CIA has literally hundreds of intelligence officers to cover the vast Soviet effort in the cold war.

College graduating classes are now systematically combed each June for bright students in languages, economics and science. But of every 1,000 applicants for career jobs, only 50 pass the severe tests and training requirements.

The pay is $3,000 for beginners up to $14,000 for 35 top analysts. Director Dulles gets $21,000. It isn't the pay that holds the "best educated working force in Washington" together. It's the interest in the work.

DULLES SETS the pace by practically living his job, seven days and nights a week. He wouldn't do anything else if he could.

He has worked out a good relationship with Congress. The drive for a congressional watchdog committee for CIA was killed last year. Dulles now clears his budget with the seven senior members of congressional appropriations committees. On top secret items, the congressmen say, "Don't tell us."

CIA after a struggle got 46 million dollars for its new headquarters in Langley, Va., a few miles up the Potomac from Washington. This will replace the 23 buildings CIA now occupies—11 of them World War I and II temporaries.

So gradually, CIA is becoming an established service. Its members now say that it is better than British intelligence, which used to be considered tops. CIA is also said to be ahead of the Russians.

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